



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental News

DEQ SET TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COMBUSTION, INC.

(Baton Rouge) – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today announced that the proposed plan for the cleanup of the Combustion, Inc. Superfund Site, located in Denham Springs, LA is available for public review. Written comments will be accepted on the proposed plan beginning May 21, 2003 until June 23, 2003. DEQ also announced it will hold a public meeting on the subject on June 5, 2003 at 7:30 pm at the Walker High School Cafeteria.

DEQ is the lead agency in the Combustion, Inc. clean-up activities. DEQ together with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) evaluated a series of alternatives for addressing ground water contamination found at the Combustion, Inc. site. The preferred alternative is called Phytoremediation plus Monitored Natural Attenuation. Comments are being sought on the preferred cleanup alternative for the site and on the other remediation alternatives that were considered. The public is encouraged to conduct careful review of the proposed plan as the preferred alternative may be modified or another response action selected based on any new information brought forth by provided comments.

Phytoremediation refers to the use of plants and trees to remediate affected soil and groundwater. It is a demonstrated remediation method that removes/degrades constituents of concern through the processes of transpiration and phyto-degradation, among others. In the Phytoremediation process proposed for the Combustion, Inc. site, the trees act as a natural pump and treat system for remediation of the groundwater.

The Combustion, Inc. site is the location of a former waste oil recycling facility located in Livingston Parish. From the 1960s through the early 1980s, the site primarily operated a used oil reclamation facility. Approximately 1,000 people live within a one-mile radius of the site. Surrounding features include underdeveloped property and single-family residences. The site was proposed for inclusion on EPA's Superfund list in June 1988 and was listed in August 1990.

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The public review and meeting are being conducted in connection with DEQ and EPA's public participation responsibilities. Information regarding the clean-up of the Combustion, Inc. site is being provided through public meetings, the Administrative record for the site, and announcements published in the Denham Springs and Baton Rouge papers. The public is encouraged to use these venues to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the history of the site and the Superfund activities previously performed in relation to its clean-up.

Copies of the Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS), Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record file are available at the Livingston Parish Library -Denham Springs/Walker Branch. Contact the library at (225) 665-8118 for hours of operation. Copies are also available through DEQ Public Records; call (225) 765-0843 or (225) 765-0428. For further information, please contact Katrina Coltrain, U.S. EPA Region 6 Remedial Project Manager, at 1-800-533-3508 or Todd Thibodeaux, DEQ Project Manager, Remediation Services Division, at (225) 765-0478.

Written comments can be sent to Keith Casanova, DEQ Administrator Remediation Services Division, P.O. Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314, Attn: Combustion, Inc. A.I.# 2941